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Agency.

Agency Fituri.

201 *Q.*—Mr. S. SATYAMURTI : Will the hon. the Home Member be pleased to state—

(*a*) the proposals, if any, for putting down the Agency Fituri ; and

(*b*) the additional expenditure likely to be incurred on that account?

A.—(*a*) & (*b*) The Government have recently obtained the loan of the services of a detachment of the Assam Military Police for the purpose of reinforcing the local Police forces operating in the Agency. The cost of this extra force was estimated by the Assam Government at Rs. 21,000 per mensem excluding cost of transport. It would not be in the public interest to make at present any further disclosure of the Government's plans for dealing with the Fituri.

Rao Bahadur C. V. S. NARASIMHA RAJU :—" I wish to know the number of troops that was employed."

The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP :—" I do not think it will be in the public interest to publish the number of exact troops that are employed."

Rao Bahadur C. V. S. NARASIMHA RAJU :—" I wish to know the average cost."

The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP :—" I am afraid I must have notice of that question."

Constitution of districts, divisions and taluks.

Redistribution of villages in the Divi taluk, Kistna district.

202 *Q.*– S. R. Y. ANKINEDU PRASAD Bahadur : Will the hon. the Home Member and the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether any fresh proposals for the redistribution of villages in the Divi taluk, Kistna district, suggesting the inclusion of some of them in the newly-proposed Pamarru taluk have reached the Government and if so, whether the hon. Member will see his way to have them published for the criticism of the public, before any final step is taken on the subject by Government ;

(*b*) whether it is a fact that proposals have been made by the Revenue authorities in the Kistna district for the formation of a new division called the Nuzvid Revenue division with headquarters at Nuzvid for administering the proposed Pamarru taluk and the existing Gannavaram taluk ; if so, whether this proposed inclusion of villages situated at several miles' distance from the headquarters of the proposed division at Nuzvid will be convenient for the people concerned and whether their wishes have been ascertained with regard to the proposed change ;

(*c*) whether it is a fact that the non-Government villages in the Divi taluk, Kistna district, were surveyed in 1890 and the mamul wet areas localized under block system of survey ; and

(*d*) if so, what necessity has arisen to resurvey all the lands in the said wet villages controlled by the irrigation authorities and what would be the probable cost of resurvey ?

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A.—(*a*) In 1919 the Board of Revenue recommended that, with a view to give relief to the Tahsildar of Divi, 20 villages should be taken away from his jurisdiction and that 15 of them should be included in the proposed Pamarru taluk and 5 in the Bandar taluk. No further proposals for the redistribution of villages in the Divi taluk have been submitted to Government. The proposal referred to above was embodied in the Press Communiqué, dated 3rd March 1920, on which the criticism of the public was invited.

(*b*) The proposal is that the taluks of Pamarru and Gannavaram and the independent Deputy Tahsildar's division of Nuzvid should be formed into a division with headquarters at Nuzvid. It has been included in the Press Communiqué, dated 6th October 1923, which was published for public criticism. Criticisms received will be considered by Government before orders are passed on the proposals for the bifurcation of the district.

(*c*) Yes ; about the year 1891.

(*d*) The condition of the original survey was found to be very unsatisfactory ; the cost of the present survey will be about Rs. 30,000 and will be fully borne by the Government.

Depressed classes.

Land assigned to the depressed classes in the Kistna district.

203 *Q.*—Mr. P. Peddiraju : Will the hon. the Home Member be pleased to lay on the table—

(1) a talukwar statement relating to the Kistna district showing the extent of land assigned for cultivation to the members of the Adi-Andhra community since 1st April 1922 ; and

(2) a statement showing the extent of land thereof fit for wet cultivation ?

A.—(1) & (2) The Government are not in possession of the information but have called for it.

Treatment of the depressed classes litigants in courts.

204 *Q.*—Mr. S. Satyamurti : Will the hon. the Home Member and the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether his attention has been drawn to the statements of Mr. R. Srinivasan, a Member of this Council, before the Lee Commission, viz., that depressed classes do not get a fair hearing in courts, except from European Judges, that litigants belonging to the depressed classes are not allowed to enter the courts and that they are examined while standing outside, that this practice prevails in most of the courts in the Presidency, and that only when Europeans preside over the courts they are admitted freely ;

(*b*) whether these statements are true ; and

(*c*) if so, of which courts and in what cases ?